



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

MONTICELLO HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER SENTENCED FOR INDECENT SOLICITATION OF A MINOR *Solicited a 15-year-old girl for sex via Internet*

MONTICELLO, Ill. — A 54-year-old Monticello high school teacher pleaded guilty in state court Friday to soliciting a “15-year-old girl” that he had corresponded with on the Internet, following an investigation by the Decatur Police Department and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The teenage girl was actually a Decatur, Ill., undercover police detective.

Larry Albaugh, a high school teacher at Monticello High School, pleaded guilty Dec. 16 to one count of indecent solicitation of a minor and was sentenced to 24 months probation by Macon County Judge Theodore Payne.

Albaugh admitted in court that he engaged in Internet chat-room conversations with a 15-year-old girl, who in fact turned out to be an undercover police detective. He was arrested Jan. 11 at the high school under a state arrest warrant for the illegal solicitation of a minor. At the time of his arrest Albaugh admitted to using his high school computer and webcam to solicit the girl online, both of which were seized by ICE.

“ICE is determined to identify and arrest sexual predators who prey upon our children,” said Resident Agent-in-Charge Gregory Archambeault of the ICE Springfield office. “The Internet and its perceived anonymity will no longer provide a safe harbor for criminals to conduct their deviant business. ICE continues to work closely with state and local authorities to combat this criminal activity against our children.”

Albaugh's arrest and prosecution is part of Operation Predator, an ongoing ICE enforcement initiative to protect children from pornographers, child prostitution rings, Internet predators, alien smugglers, human traffickers, and other predatory criminals. Since the initiative began in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,800 individuals nationwide, including more than 340 in Illinois.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.